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U.S.S. DETROIT'S DAILY NEWS

JULY 15, 1945

U.S. THIRD FLEET UNITS BOMBARD JAPAN

(BULLETIN)

PEARL HARBOR -- IN A SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY ADMIRAL NIMITZ IT WAS REVEALED THAT THE THIRD FLEET AT NOON SATURDAY BEGAN THE FIRST HEAVY SURFACE SHIP BOMBARDMENT OF JAPAN'S MAIN ISLANDS SINCE THE WAR BEGAN.

THE ATTACK IS CONTINUING AND IS CONCENTRATED ON INSTALLATIONS NEAR KAMAISHI, 275 MILES NORTHEAST OF TOKYO, ON HONSHU.

REAR ADMIRAL SHAFROTH COMMANDS THE BOMBARDMENT GROUP THAT INCLUDES THE BATTLESHIPS MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA AND SOUTH DAKOTA, THE HEAVY CRUISERS CHICAGO AND QUINCY AND THE DESTROYERS SOUTHERLAND, HEERMAN, ERBEN AND BLACK.

CARRIER PLANES AGAIN STRIKE JAPANESE TARGETS

GUAM -- CARRIER PLANES OF THE U.S. THIRD FLEET - MAKING THEIR DEEPEST PENETRATION OF THE JAPANESE HOMELAND - ATTACKED THE NORTHERN HONSHU AND HOKKAIDE ISLANDS YESTERDAY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY ADMIRAL NIMITZ.

MORE THAN 1,000 CARRIER-BORNE AIRCRAFT ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE STRIKES WHICH FOLLOWED BY FOUR DAYS A SIMILAR ASSAULT ON SOME 80 AIR FIELDS IN THE TOKYO AREA.

THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED YESTERDAY SAID THAT "COMPLETE TACTICAL SURPRISE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED" AND REVEALED THAT ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY IS IN OVER-ALL COMMAND OF THE OPERATION AND VICE ADMIRAL JOHN S. MCCAIN IS IN TACTICAL COMMAND OF THE FAST CARRIER FORCE.

FURTHER REPORTS ON TUESDAY'S RAIDS WERE ANNOUNCED BY ADMIRAL NIMITZ FOLLOWING RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO CONTACT WITH THE THIRD FLEET.

DAMAGE INFLICTED INCLUDED THAT TO 342 ENEMY PLANES, SOME 109 DESTROYED ON THE GROUND, 231 DAMAGED AGROUND AND TWO SCOUT PLANES SHOT FROM THE AIR.

THE THIRD FLEET LOST FIVE FIGHTERS AND FIVE TORPEDO PLANES IN COMBAT, WITH PERSONNEL LOSSES OF SEVEN PILOTS AND SIX AIR CREW MEN.

AUSSIES PUSH AHEAD ON BORNEO

MANILA -- JAPANESE DEFENSES GUARDING SAMBODJA OILFIELD, ON SOUTHEAST BORNEO, HAVE COLLAPSED AS AUSSIES GAINED FOUR AND ONE HALF MILES TO REACH POINTS MORE THAN 20 MILES NORTH OF BALIKPAPAN AND NINE MILES FROM SAMBODJA, A TOWN IN THE HEART OF THE OIL FIELDS.

OTHER UNITS PUSHED DEEPER INLAND.

AUSSIES IN THE BRUNET BAY AREA OF BORNEO ARE MOVING STEADILY NORTHWARD ALONG THE JESSELTON RAILWAY TOWARD THE LAST MAIN ENEMY POSITION IN THIS AREA.

AMERICANS KEEPING PROMISE

SAN FRANCISCO -- THE JAPANESE DOMEI NEW AGENCY ADMITTED YESTERDAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE GOOD ITS THREAT OF ROUND THE CLOCK AIR ATTACKS AND GLOOMILY PREDICTED THAT THEY ARE A PRELUDE TO INVASION.

B-29 CREWS REPORT ON RAID

GUAM -- RETURNING CREWS OF THE SUPERFORT FLEET WHICH DROPPED INCENDIARY AND DEMOLITION BOMBS ON FOUR JAPANESE CITIES AND ONE OIL CENTER FRIDAY REPORTED MEAGER AND INACCURATE ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE AND VERY LIGHT JAP AERIAL OPPOSITION.

THE BOMBING WAS BY PRECISION INSTRUMENTS AND THICK WEATHER PREVENTED OBSERVATION OF RESULTS.

TWO OF THE B-29'S WERE LOST AND ONE IS MISSING.

OVER TSURUGA A CLUSTER OF INCENDIARY BOMBS STUCK IN THE REAR BOMB BAY OF A SUPERFORT AND TWO CLUSTERS STUCK IN THE FORWARD BOMB BAY.

TWO CREWMEN WRESTLED WITH THE INCENDIARIES AND FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FREE ALL OF THE BOMBS AND THE SUPERFORT RETURNED TO TINIAN SAFELY.

CHINESE ENTER AIR BASE CITY

CHUNGKING -- CHINESE COMMUNIQUEES ANNOUNCE THAT CHINESE FORCES HAVE BROKEN INTO THE FORMER AMERICAN AIR BASE CITY OF KANHSIEN, IN KIANGSI PROVINCE, AND THAT STREET FIGHTING IS IN PROGRESS.

IF CAPTURED THAT CITY WOULD BE THE SIXTH FORMER U.S. BASE TAKEN FROM THE JAPANESE IN THE CURRENT DRIVE.

A CHINESE ARMY SPOKESMAN SAYS THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT THE ENEMY IS WITHDRAWING FROM THE SOUTH CHINA COAST, BETWEEN INDO-CHINA AND HONGKONG.

CHINESE ON THE EAST COAST HAVE INTERCEPTED A JAP LANDING FORCE PUSHING TOWARD CHANGPU.

OKINAWA-BASED PLANES ACTIVE

MANILA -- THE U.S. SEVENTH AIRFORCE MADE SWEEPS OVER KYUSHU WITHIN ONE DAY AFTER THEY WERE REPORTED TO BE OPERATING FROM OKINAWA.

FIGHTERS OF THE SEVENTH TEAMED WITH OTHERS FROM THE FIFTH IN BAKING KANOYA AIRFIELD, KYUSHU'S LARGEST, WITHOUT OPPOSITION.

MARINE FIGHTERS JOINED IN THE ATTACKS AND ALSO HIT THE NORTHERN RYUKYUS.

ELEVENTH AIRFORCE-BOMBERS HIT PARAMUSHIRO AND SHIMUSHU IN THE KURILES WHILE PLANES FROM MANILA AND OKINAWA TEAMED UP IN THE AERIAL BLOCKADE OF JAP SHIPPING LANES.

BRITISH FLEET BOMBARDS

GUAM -- THE BRITISH FLEET RECENTLY STAGED A COMBINED AIR, SEA BOMBARDMENT OF THE STRATEGIC NICOBAR ISLANDS AND NORTHWESTERN SUMATRA ENEMY BASES GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE MALACCO STRAITS.

SINGAPORE LIES BEHIND THE STRAITS.

OTHER BRITISH VESSELS SWEEP MINES FROM THE APPROACHES TO THE MALACCO STRAITS, 400 MILES FROM SINGAPORE.

SOME DETAILS OF TYPHOON REVEALED

GUAM -- WIND AND WAVES OF A TYPHOON OFF JAPAN CRIPPLED ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. HALSEY'S U.S. THIRD FLEET ON JUNE 5 AND ADMIRAL NIMITZ REPORTED THAT OVER 21 SHIPS WERE DAMAGED BY IT BUT THAT MOST OF THEM HAD RETURNED TO DUTY.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE TYPHOON'S DAMAGE WAS HEAVIER THAN ANY THE JAPANESE HAVE INFLICTED IN ANY SINGLE ACTION AGAINST THE PACIFIC FLEET.

SO POWERFUL WAS THE TYPHOON WHICH CAUGHT THE THIRD FLEET SOUTHEAST OF THE RYUKYUS THAT THE BOW OF THE CRUISER PITTSBURGH WAS TORN COMPLETELY AWAY.

NIMITZ SAID THE 138 MILE-AN-HOUR WIND AND HEAVY SEAS ALSO DAMAGED THE BATTLESHIPS MASSACHUSETTS, INDIANA AND ALABAMA AND THE CARRIERS THE HORNET, BENNINGTON, SAN JACINTO AND BELLEAU WOODS.